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TRENDS

ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICAN
RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, June 2, 1988 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended May 28 totaled 19.6 billion ton-miles, up 20.0 percent from the 16.3 billion carried in the comparable week of 1987, which included the Memorial Day holiday.

Cumulative volume for the first 21 weeks of 1988 was an estimated 395.4 billion ton-miles carried, up 7.9 percent from the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings originated in the week ended May 28 totaled 436,206, up 18.6 percent from the corresponding week of last year, and 1.9 percent over the preceding week. Compared with last year, carloadings originated were up 17.8 percent in the East, and 19.5 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of last year, 19 of the 20 major commodity groups increased. Coal showed a gain of 17,971 cars (17.6 percent), grain increased by 6,841 cars (27.5 percent) and crushed stone, gravel and sand loadings were up by 5,283 cars (39.2 percent). Twelve of the 20 commodity groups increased from the preceding week.

Piggyback

Piggyback traffic for the week ended May 21 totaled 110,262 trailers and/or containers, up 2.0 percent from the comparable week of 1987.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 20 weeks of the year was 2,156,961 trailers and/or containers, up 5.2 percent from 1987.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 5/28/88:

	Loadings in Week ended May 28, 1988		Change from Corresponding Week 1987			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	31,692	I	6,841	27.5	I	631	2.0
Other farm products	3,765	I	47	1.3	I	197	5.5
Metallic ores	19,635	I	2,858	17.0	I	471	2.5
Coal	120,307	I	17,971	17.6	I	4,654	4.0
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	18,768	I	5,283	39.2	I	413	2.3
Nonmetallic minerals	10,561	I	1,467	16.1	D	1,045	9.0
Grain mill products	11,261	I	1,251	12.5	I	153	1.4
Food and kindred products	11,340	I	1,415	14.3	I	387	3.5
Primary forest products	10,157	I	385	3.9	D	57	0.6
Lumber and wood products except furniture	8,567	I	555	6.9	I	467	5.8
Pulp, paper and allied products	12,648	D	485	3.7	I	383	3.1
Chemicals and allied products	26,597	I	2,202	9.0	D	688	2.5
Petroleum products	5,139	I	781	17.9	D	33	0.6
Stone, clay and glass products	11,933	I	2,022	20.4	I	181	1.5
Coke	5,333	I	552	11.5	D	86	1.6
Metals and products	11,444	I	2,729	31.3	I	1,108	10.7
Motor vehicles and equipment	22,127	I	5,054	29.6	D	1,299	5.5
Waste and scrap materials	9,867	I	2,486	33.7	D	346	3.4
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	2,595	I	403	18.4	D	6	0.2
All other carloads	82,470	I	14,596	21.5	I	2,634	3.3
Total Cars Loaded	436,206	I	68,413	18.6	I	8,119	1.9
Corresponding week of 1987	367,793						

	1988	1987	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (21 weeks)	8,824,863	8,254,465	I 6.9
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
20 weeks ended May 21	375.8	350.0	I 7.4
Week ended May 28	19.6	16.3	I 20.0
21 Weeks cumulative	395.4	366.4	I 7.9

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